Law for North-Eastern States

4423. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Customary Law of the tribals of the North-Eastern States particularly the sixth Scheduled Areas has been recognised as separate law for them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Commission for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes has recommended that the tribals of Fifth Scheduled Areas be given the same rights as are given to tribals of Sixth Scheduled Areas; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFARIS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b). Customary Law alongwith statutory law still forms to be an important constituent of legal framework in India. Its force as law has been recognised under article 13 of the Constitution. Different Customary Laws are in force in all States and Union territories including the North-Eastern States and the States covered under the Sixth Schedule. Certain Acts of Parliament and State Legislations also specifically recognise custom as source of law.

(c) and (d). The requisite information is being collected from the States concerned and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the same will be laid down on the table of the House.

Opening of New Coal Mines

4424. SHRI MANHARAN LAL PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number and the locations of coal mines are in working condition in the Madhya Pradesh as on date;

(b) whether the Government propose to open new coal mines in the State particularly in Pasan, Sindugarh and Pali areas of Bilaspur;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide employment to the skilled and unskilled workers of the areas in the said coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The number and the locations of working coal mines of CIl in the Madhya Pradesh as on 1.11.96 are as under:

Company	District	No. of Working mines
1	2	3
SCEL	Shahdol	43
	Surguja	30
	Raigarh	4
	Bilaspur	18
WCL	Chindwara	28
	Betul	9
NCL	Sidhi	6
	Total	138

(b) and (c). Five new mines around Pasan/ Sindurgarh and Pali of Bilaspur district are proposed to be started in 1996-97/97-98. Details of the mines are given below :-

	Name of Project	Capacity	Locality
1.	Bani Atari UG	0.18 MTY.	Pasan/ Sindurgarh
2.	Skhakti UG	0.21 MTY.	Pali
3.	Kartali UG	0.18 MTY.	Pali
4.	Saraipali UG	0.21 MTY.	Pali
5.	Budbud UG	0.21 MTY.	Pali

(d) As per the policy of the company the recruitment of workers for the new coal mines mention above. Wherever necessary will the done out of the candidate sponsored by the concerned employment exchanges of Korba and Bilaspur.

I.T. Raids on Industrialists

4425. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Income Tax investigation wing has unearthed any racket involving big industrial houses under the "Sale and lease back" arrangement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A number of cases of irregularities relating to sale and lease back agreement by Industrial Houses have been detected by the Income-tax Department, the assets in respect of which this kind of arrangement was made, were either over-invoiced or non-existent. In most of the cases, claim of 100% depreciation and lease-rentals were made, which, after concerted enquiries and investigations, were found to be falsely claimed as the assets did not exist or were of much lesser value. The Officers of the Income Tax Department dealing with cases of industrial houses, including those who owned the alleged assets, are taking appropriate remedial action in accordance with law.